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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/792,047

03/03/2004

Matthew Richard McAlonis

18118 (AT 20958-2127)

4753

7590

02/03/2005

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EXAMINER

LUEBKE, RENEE S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/792,047

Applicant(s)

MCALONIS

Examiner

Renee S. Luebke

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2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

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1. Claims 17 and 20 are objected to because claim 17 appears to be missing text. The shroud does not comprise a latch member. In addition, claim 20 is redundant, repeating limitations that are present in claim 15 from which it depends. Appropriate corrections are required.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Consoli, et al. (see Figs. 10-15). This connector comprises a shroud 110 retaining contact pins, and a skirt 126 with a latch member 130. Each of the side walls comprises a keying flange 114.

4. Claims 3, 7, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Consoli in view of Berg, at al. The connector of Consoli lacks the claimed keying flanges and contact type. However, the similar device of Berg comprises more keying flanges on one side than the other (see Fig. 11). This allows easier visual identification prior to assembly. For this reason, it would have been obvious to use the keying arrangement taught by Berg on the shroud of Consoli. In addition, the connector of Berg comprises spring loaded

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contact pins (Fig. 4) for use with printed circuit boards. For the same reason, it would have been obvious to use such pins on the device of Consoli.

5. Claims 15, 16, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg. This device comprises a circuit board, an outer cover 14, a connector 10 including a shroud and a plurality of pins 32b. The flanges 36 and skirt 38 are arranged in a reverse manner so that the connector is inserted from the inside of the device. However, it is well known to insert such a device from the outside in order to do so at a later stage in the assembly. For this reason, it would have been obvious to reverse the flanges and skirt to allow insertion from the outside of the cover.

6. Claims 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg in view of Consoli. The connector of Berg lacks the particular latch and skirt arrangement claimed. However, Consoli teaches a skirt that extends outward in each direction and that includes a latch aligned along the longitudinal axis. Such a skirt distributes the pressure from the cover in an even manner and the latch arrangement allows latching easily without twisting as the connector is installed. Both arrangements therefore place less stress on the components and thereby enable easier assembly. For these reasons, it would have been obvious to use the skirt and latch arrangement of Consoli on the connector of Berg.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The devices of Young, Boyden and Cravens, et al. mount on a cover in a manner similar to that of the present invention.

8. Any response to this action may be mailed to:

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to:  
(703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Mrs. Renee Luebke whose telephone number is (571) 272-2009.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Paula Bradley, can be reached at (571) 272-2800, extension 33.



Renee S. Luebke  
Primary Patent Examiner  
January 31, 2005